



Social Work Newsletter

GAYLE LEES SANDLIN RECEIVES AWARD

MAY 2007 GRADU- ATES AND PLACES OF EM- PLOY- MENT

- Lance Day – graduate school
- Karen Driver – graduate school
- Michelle Lee– Glenwood (Alliance)
- Heather McPhillips – Gateway
- Valerie Schroeder – Chilton County Schools

It is with great pride and excitement that we congratulate Gayle Lees Sandlin on her recognition as this year's Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence recipient. Gayle graduated from UM with a social work degree in 1970.

In her nomination letter, Ava Rozelle wrote the following:

"Gayle began her career in social work with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (then Dept of Pensions & Security) in 1970 and continued until 1979 with various responsibilities as Program Consultant for child support enforcement, Program Analyst for statewide administration of Alabama's Title XX funds and Social Worker for Aid to Dependent Children in Mobile County. When the Children's Health Insurance Program was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Alabama was the first state in the nation to



have their state plan approved and the first state to enroll children. When the Alabama legislature asked the Alabama Department of Public Health to be the administering agency for this new program, Gayle was asked to take the leadership role in developing the program, even though she had no experience in the insurance industry. Gayle is widely recognized as a person who can make things happen. She is a visionary, a motivator, and has the ability to bring diverse groups together for a common purpose – in this case, to build a successful program which is known as ALL Kids. This program is recognized as a national model – so much so that this year when SCHIP was up for Reauthorization,

Gayle's entire career with the Alabama Department of Public Health has been one of building new things. During her time as Social Work Director, the social work program in Public Health grew from a handful of social workers to around 200 statewide, providing social work and case management in multiple programs to the most vulnerable populations served by the Department. In 1995, Gayle was asked to take on the transition of the Elderly/Disabled Medicaid Waiver from the Department of Human Resources to the Health Department. This was a massive project involving transfers of staff, hires of new staff, developing protocols for case managers, training,

establishing a system for supervision, contracts with service providers and more. This is now a highly successful program, having been built on the foundation laid by Gayle's work. She has served the state and its citizens in various other capacities through the years, including the Social Work Licensure Board, and many interagency commissions and workgroups.

Thus, Gayle Sandlin has made significant impacts on many aspects of public health in Alabama by

serving the youngest to the oldest. She has served the state in an exemplary manner, encouraging others to grow professionally while modeling integrity, compassion, professionalism and collaboration. The impact of the ALL Kids program on the health care system for children in our state is dramatic, and Alabama has been a national leader in this area. "

From a letter of support signed by Diane Abernathy, Bonnie Bradley, Vickie Carter, Paula Clark, Angela Daniel, Tina Dooley, Angie James, Liz

Todd, Jamie Manning, Tracy Schofield, Ashley Peyer, and Yolanda Martinez:

"As a result of her hard work and commitment to Public Health issues facing the people of Alabama, Gayle was selected from all of the State's Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP) directors, to testify in Washington D.C. at hearings for the Reauthorization of SCHIP. Gayle discussed how she led the ALL Kids Children's Health Insurance Program (ALL Kinds) into the successful program it is today, and how National Legislation should be shaped to maintain the success of all Children's Health Insurance Programs. In Alabama, Gayle has worked hard to keep the ALL Kids program administratively simple and family friendly throughout her tenure. She is now continuing that effort on the national level, advocating not only for Alabama, but for all states to have flexibility and choices in how they provide health care coverage to the children in their state"

The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence was established in 1987. The intent of this award is to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group, or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Nominees represent excellence in effort and a significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

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GIFTS TO THE PROGRAM

Debra Weldon Carlson	Jeanett Niven
Jamie Case	Scholarship
Betty Coons	Sue McClamrock
Karen Sanders Crawford	
Maggie Plott Davenport	Eagles Allied Health
Jeannie Duke	Scholarship
Lacey Baker Ellison	Susan Vaughn
Virginia Emerine	
Vermeu Greene	Porter Scholarship
Stephanie Hogg	Jeanetta Corbett Keller
Ann Kelly	Janna Meaks
Carole Martin	Lois Ann Ray
Amy Mims	
Florence Hogg Mitchell	A special thank you to
Karla Morrow	Mel Dorrough Robin-
Krissa Lane Mull	son for DVDs for class-
Brandy Tate	room use.
Nancy Wallace	
Rowena West	
Susan Wilder	



WHAT YOUR GIFTS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

\$626 Journals for library

\$286 Newsletter

\$ 80 Kids Count for students and library

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

*Aesop,
The Lion and the Mouse*

FACULTY NEWS

Jeannie Duke, is currently serving as VP of Development on the Board of Directors for Alzheimer's of Central Alabama and was responsible for two major fundraisers in 2007, grossing over \$250,000. She will become the Board's President in January, 2008.

Ms. Duke also received a \$20,000 Title IV-E grant from the Higher Education Child Welfare Consortium at UA to develop and implement statewide DHR staff workshops.

Ms. Duke is currently serving as Chair of the Conference Planning Committee for the Alabama Gerontological Society which will hold its annual conference in April in Birmingham, AL. She also serves as Chair of the Hospitality Committee for the Baccalaureate Program Director's national annual conference in 2008.

Licensure Computer Test Available for Alumni Use

The Program has purchased both the LBSW and LGSW computer practice test. If you wish to use them (on campus only), contact Ms. Amanda Fox (205) 665-6180 or email at foxat@montevallo.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

Sue McClamroch '47 came through Katrina's devastation with relatively minor problems.

Lois Anne Ray '60 is retired and is fortunate to be traveling. She has traveled to Greece numerous times and has also visited Ireland, Africa, China and Norway. She also enjoys cruises that give her a lot of reading time.

Deborah Howard '75 spent 18 years working as the Director of Research for the Gadsden Industrial Development Authority and now teaches Business Technology at the Gadsden Job Corps Center and is employed by Gadsden State Community College.

Virginia Emerine '77 is recovering nicely from a total knee arthroplasty. She plans to travel to Austria in June and then to Vienna as well as experiencing riverboat tours of Germany and Holland.

Cathy Gilbert McElderry '79 IS rofessor of social work at UAB. She recently co-authored an article published in the Social Service Review, entitled "How do drug use and social relations affect welfare participation?"

Susan Harris Conwell '80 is looking forward to receiving her master's degree next year. She and her husband have been married for almost 30 years.

Karen Sanders Crawford '81 is a mental health therapist at the Mental Health Center at Carraway.

Brooks Burdette '85 has a rising law practice and has recently renovated her house in Trussville.

Lula Kathryn North Cunningham '87 has completed her first year as a kindergarten teacher at Creek View Elementary School. She is the proud parent of a 2007 high school graduate/Salutatorian of Montevallo High School.

Jaane Meeks '88 is the Director of Emergency Services at Pathway and has been for 3 years.

She runs the daycare and the newest program Safe Haven.

Donna Rittman Rhoden '91 has been practicing for 14 years at the Health Department and a total of 16 years.

Leanne Heaton '93 is in the process of completing her Ph.D at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also teaching social work courses to graduate students.

Vivian B. Landers '94 recently began working for Alacare Home Health and Hospice. She has been with hospice since 2002. She plans to stay in this line of work for "quite some time".

Kristi Goodin Carter '95 is a stay at home mom and is currently expecting her second child.

Jamie Case '96 is a Data Analyst for Huntsville Hospital.

Steven Mark Brown '97 is a Master's level therapist at Bradford Health Services in the Extended Care Program. He is also the Grief and Loss Therapist, and works with impaired health care professionals.

Beverly Gray Morgan '97 is with the State Department of Public Health as a supervisor of nursing home surveyors. She and her husband live in Clanton.

Darlene Allen '98 works for Barfield Health Care as a Social Service Director.

Monica Roberton '99 works as a contract social worker with state DHR and state DYS.

Ashley Fondren '00 lives in Georgia where she is an Independent Living Coordinator for teens.

Amy Mims '00 works as a service coordinator and social worker for Spring Garden Apartments.

Lawanda VanHorn '00 is attending grad school at the University of Alabama.

Maggie Plott Davenport '01 is a resource worker with DHR; she

married Dustin Davenport on April 21, 2007. She also trains and recruits foster parents.

Annie Clara Brown '02 completed her MSW at the University of Alabama and graduated in August and is employed at Lakeside Hospice in Pell City.

Amanda Dorsett '03 is employed at Birmingham Aids Outreach and plans to complete massage therapy school at the Red Mountain Institute.

Lacey Baker Ellison '03 is employed by the Patient First program in Chilton County.

Jennifer Emmons '03 is a licensed minister and works for the St.Louis Dream Center in St.Louis, Missouri.

Allison Payne '03 and husband Chris welcomed home their first child in December.

Vonda Baty '05 is currently expecting her first baby.

Andy Helms '05 and Joy Williams '05 received from their peers and supervisors the Gateway agency-wide "Wow's" award for August and July for "wow" work.

Carolyn Samson '05 is currently employed by Alacare Home Health and Hospice. She is expecting a child in November.

Douglas E. Heath is the new Director at Randolph Co. DHR. He also has a son Jackson who turns 1 August 29th.

Jeff Leach '06 works for the JBS Mental Health Authority as a case manager.

Heather Sims '06 is currently the night time on call staff operator at Home Instead Senior Care, as well as working part time at the Birmingham Independent Living Center.

Valerie Schroeder '06 received her LBSW and is employed by the Chilton County School System.

Passing the Torch – New Social Work Graduates

Regina Pollard, the Future of Social Work

Sitting across the table from me at the Sheraton in Tuscaloosa, sipping on a glass of iced tea, Regina Pollard said, “In the middle of the night, I sat up in bed wide-awake with the clear knowledge that I was meant to be a social worker.”

Regina had grown up in Birmingham where she had attended public schools. Her mother was a teacher and had always guided Regina to be the best she could be. As a high school graduate, Regina had decided to study math but never felt “at home” in this field. She is a thoughtful and reasoned person who sought her mother’s guidance regarding her field of study and her future. Wisely, Regina’s mother did not tell her what to do but discussed options and encouraged her to choose a career that would utilize her skills and that would be most fulfilling on both a personal and professional level. After further discussions with others, Regina began to consider social work. She was enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of Montevallo. Having made initial contact with those connected with the UM Social Work Program, Regina described how comfortable she felt and her admiration for the inclusive and caring attitude of teachers and students. This led Regina, a very talented and dedicated person, to change her major. Her decision is a gain for the profession.

After enrolling in the social work curriculum, Regina received several

scholarships and honors as she became immersed in her new field of study. Among her activities, she was a student member of NASW, Upward Bound Mentor, Senator with the Student Government Association, member of the University Program Council, on the President’s List, Dean’s List, selected for Who’s Who Among American College Students, and inducted into Phi Alpha Honor Society. One of her key contributions was to spearhead the formation of a chapter of Alabama Arise at Montevallo. In 2006, she received her BSW from Montevallo and enrolled in the Advanced MSW Program at the University of Alabama.

Regina has written that she had decided after receiving the BSW that “...I would not limit the possibilities that I could have, neither would I attempt to serve clients without knowing that I have adequately done my part in learning and being trained as a Social Worker. With that in mind, I set out on a journey of graduate schools and eventually found my way to the University of Alabama.” It is Regina’s desire to work with children, youth, and families and eventually to develop an agency in an inner city with the main goal of intervention and mentoring.

When the Alabama Chapter/NASW Board endowed the Eulene Hawkins/NASW Social Work Scholarship at the University of Alabama, the purpose was to assist highly qualified individuals to obtain a graduate

school education in social work. As the 2006-2007 recipient of this scholarship, Regina wrote in a “thank you” letter, “As a student member of NASW, I ... had great reassurance that NASW is not only a professional organization of which I am a part, but an organization that cares about its members as well as the population that it advocates for and serves continually.” ... “I plan to show (my) gratitude each and every day through my continued success, education, and working to develop and blossom into a great servant of the people who need help the most.” Regina exhibits those powerful traits of every excellent social worker. Other than going to work, she hopes to receive a Ph.D. and will become one of our profession’s shining lights. She is one of many new graduates whom more experienced professionals may consider with pride as a new generation moves into the field of social work.

On Saturday, May 12, 2007, Regina graduated from the University of Alabama with a 4.0 grade point average.

This article is copyrighted. It may be used for non-commercial purposes without written permission. If any reader knows of an outstanding social worker who inspires others, please contact TonyDee-Walker@hotmail.com for a future article.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KAY LUCY

Biology and Social Work? It sounded like a very “odd couple” but this summer, Kay Lucy, biology major and Jeannie Duke, social work instructor found that the two interests were very compatible. Kay was a member of the 2006-2007 McNair Scholars class and approached Ms. Duke to be her mentor. With a healthy dose of skepticism about how social work and biology would interact, the match was a success for both of them and speaks to the value of interdisciplinary research.

Dorcas LaKay Lucy was born in Wilcox County where she at-

tended Wilcox Central High School. Kay is a biology major planning to pursue a career in Pediatric dentistry, is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc and is a member of the University of Montevallo’s Women of Excellence. Her McNair Scholars Program research was on the topic of “Access and Disparities of Child Dental Care among Alabama Medicaid Recipients.” Kay won “best presentation” at the McNair Scholars research day. Through the McNair Program, Kay attended and presented her research project as the first under-

graduate to do so at the National Dental Association National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The judges were very impressed with her project and the fact that she was an undergraduate student competing with dental school students. Her research has been submitted for presentation at the Baccalaureate Program Director’s meeting in Sandestin, Florida in March, 2008. Upon completion of dental school, accomplish one of her goals in life which is to open her own dental practice and become an advocate for the oral health and overall well-being of under-privileged children.



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P R O G R A M

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